



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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Alzheimer's Community Forum Seeks Public Input
Findings to support recommendations to the Governor

[Jefferson City, MO] – The Alzheimer's Association is hosting a community forum to gather public input on issues and concerns related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Findings will support final recommendations from the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force, led by Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, due to the general assembly and Governor Nixon in November.

The Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Task Force seeks to gather input that will help Missouri confront the challenges of Alzheimer's by assessing the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease; examining existing services and resources for people with dementia, their families, and caregivers; and developing recommendations to respond to the escalating public health situation regarding Alzheimer's.

Those affected by Alzheimer's disease are invited to attend to share concerns about Alzheimer's care and support in Missouri. The Alzheimer's Community Forum is Wednesday, January 27, 5-7 p.m. at Lenoir Woods Community Center in Columbia. A light supper is complimentary and registration is required by calling 573-443-8665.

About the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force

In 2009, the Missouri General Assembly passed HB272 that calls for the establishment in the Department of Health and Senior Services of an "Alzheimer's Disease State Plan Task Force" charged with addressing the challenges of Alzheimer's disease for future generations.

The 19 members of the Task Force include leadership from the lieutenant governor's office and representation from state government including the state departments of health and senior services, social services and mental health, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Also, professionals working with person with Alzheimer's, a family caregiver, and a person living with Alzheimer's are represented.

By the middle of this century, more than 14 million Americans are expected to have Alzheimer's disease. Five million have the disease now; 110,000 are Missourians. As baby boomers age and become more susceptible to Alzheimer's disease, states are forming similar taskforces to plan for the future financial requirements of the state.

From 1986 to 1989, Missouri convened a blue ribbon task force on Alzheimer's disease. A number of initiatives resulted from their work, including passage of legislation establishing the Alzheimer's Disease Research Program and community-based respite programs through Alzheimer's Service Grants. Although a great deal of legislation has been passed since 1989, there has not been an effort by the state to look comprehensively at programs and services for people with dementia and their caregivers.

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Through its national network of chapters, the Alzheimer's Association offers a broad range of programs and services for people with the disease, their families and caregivers. Also a toll free, nationwide contact center is available at 1-800-272-3900 to families and caregivers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Alzheimer's Association is a tax-exempt 501 c(3) nonprofit organization. All of its programs and services are made possible through contributions, large and small, from individuals, corporations and foundations. For media resources, visit www.alz.org/media.asp.